LETTER FROM
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

It gives me great joy to present NYU Metro Center’s 2017-18 Annual Report. As the Center sits in this prolonged season of success, we acknowledge the roles of our partners and our dynamic team in fostering a work worthwhile.

Audre Lorde writes, “The quality of light by which we scrutinize our lives has direct bearing upon the product which we live, and upon the changes which we hope to bring about through those lives.” We forge our meanings in this light, pursue a magic not yet imagined yet hoped for, and aspire toward a world that lives courageously in our dreams. NYU Metro Center finds its resonance in this space, for the Center is more than another research organization. It is an idea.

This idea, borne in labor, forged in freedom work, is illumination, for it is through freedom’s work—the labor of liberation toward our highest moral pursuits—that we give name to the ideas which are—without the common cause of our efforts—nameless and formless, about to be birthed but already felt. The distillation of experience, the never-ending fountains from which freedom work springs sanctions thought just as dream births concept, as feeling births idea, as knowledge precede understanding.

Now, for more than forty years, NYU Metro Center has been the way that we give name to the nameless so that it can be thought—and beyond all surfaces we find our truths somewhere dark, ancient, and deep. However, NYU Metro Center is not only dream and vision; it is also the skeleton architecture of our lives. For the scores of people who work with us and the thousand and hundreds of thousands of people for whom we labor, it lays foundations for a future of change, a bridge across our fears of what has never been before. NYU Metro Center is about our children and their futures.

Lorde writes: “Our children cannot dream unless they live, they cannot live unless they are nourished, and who else will feed them the real food without which their dreams will be no different than ours? . . . there are no new ideas . . . only new ways of making them felt.”

In this 2017-18 Annual Report, we highlight our work and our reach, how far we’ve come and the new ways we’ve created for making our work felt.

Dr. David E. Kirkland
The Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of School
MISSION

We advance equity and excellence in education, connecting to legacies of justice work through critical inquiry and research, professional development and technical assistance, community action and collaboration.
VISION

We commit to social justice and the amplification of youth and parent/community voice, meaningful dialogue and interaction to honor and respect all people.
INTEGRITY

Strong moral principles that adhere to a code of the highest virtues of sound and incorruptible human character sustain NYU Metro Center.

Honesty • Excellence • Probity • Recitude • Honor • Decency • Trustworthiness
VALUES

CONNECTION

Radical and unyielding understanding for those who face barriers to inclusion in their community, while working in partnership to build a more embracing world, guides NYU Metro Center.

Thick Love • Hope • Humanity • Belonging • Radical Imagination
VALUES

COMMUNITY

NYU Metro Center embraces the concept of the collective — “out of many, one” — we are better and more together than we are alone, that those most impacted by policies and practices should be part of designing those policies and practices.

Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM) • “I am because we are” (Ubuntu) Solidarity • Reciprocity • Every student
VALUES

SERVICE

NYU Metro Center pledges to contribute to the benefit of others—especially vulnerable people—to assist in the ongoing campaigns for justice, social transformation, and extended opportunities.

Advocacy • Urgency • Action-Oriented • Praxis
NYU Metro Center embodies and advances the principles of a free society, untethered from oppressive restrictions imposed on the goals of self-determination, independence, autonomy, and sovereignty for vulnerable people.

Freedom and Fairness • Equity and Justice • Tolerance • Respect • Empowerment
NYU Metro Center is framed by the tenets of culturally responsive education (CRE); a view of education that connects curriculum and teaching to students’ experiences, perspectives, histories, and cultures; to sustain and advance students’ connection to their own languages, histories, cultures, and identities while also empowering them to imagine a better world for everyone.

The NYU Metro Center has and will continue to develop and promote work centering CRE.

“"In this here place, we flesh; flesh that weeps, laughs; flesh that dances on bare feet in grass. Love it. Love it hard. Yonder they do not love your flesh. They despise it. They don’t love your eyes; they’d just as soon pick em out. No more do they love the skin on your back. Yonder they flay it. And O my people, out yonder, hear me, they do not love your neck unnoosed and straight. So love your neck; put a hand on it, grace it, stroke it and hold it up. And all your inside parts that they’d just as soon slop for hogs, you got to love them. The dark, dark liver—love it, love it and the beat and beating heart, love that too. More than eyes or feet. More than lungs that have yet to draw free air. More than your life-holding womb and your life-giving private parts, hear me now, love your heart. For this is the prize.”

Toni Morrison

You got to love it, you! And no, they ain’t in love with your mouth. Yonder, out there, they will see it broken and break it again. What you say out of it they will not heed. What you scream from it they do not hear. What you put into it to nourish your body they will snatch away and give you leavins instead. No, they don’t love your mouth. You got to love it. This is flesh I’m talking about here. Flesh that needs to be loved. Feet that need to rest and to dance; backs that need support; shoulders that need arms, strong arms I’m telling you. And O my people, out yonder, hear me, they do not love your neck unnoosed and straight. So love your neck; put a hand on it, grace it, stroke it and hold it up. And all your inside parts that they’d just as soon slop for hogs, you got to love them.

“Until the lion tells the story, the hunter will always be the hero”

African Proverb

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.”

Marcus Garvey
The organization is guided by its executive director, a team of deputy executive directors, center and project directors, professional staff, graduate students, committed volunteers, and consultants—all of whom sit on the front lines of educational reform, ensuring equal access to education with high standards of performance and achievement through the quality of their work and a shared vision of exemplary practice.
Areas of Work

+ Abilities & Inclusion
+ Administration & Leadership
+ Community Engagement
+ Early Childhood Development & Learning
+ Equity & social justice
+ Language & Literacy
+ Parent Engagement & Support
+ Research
+ School Climate
+ Student Support & Services
Abilities and Inclusion

“Children are more alike than they are different, and should be educated together.”
Carolyn Tomlin

We take a DisCrit perspective to abilities, working with schools and districts to encourage environments that are inclusive, welcoming, and nurturing across religion, ethnicity, language ability, gender, sexual orientation, and race.
Administration & Leadership

“We support leaders in shaping restorative, responsive, and safe environments that promote learning in culturally sustaining and academically rigorous ways, putting bold theories of educational excellence into practice while inspiring conversations about the rights of all students to learn.”

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.”

Alan Kay
College & Career

“You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives...”
Clay P. Bedford

We provide services designed to enhance all students’ access to educational opportunities, helping them develop skills necessary for becoming independent, self-sufficient, and transformative members of society.
Community Engagement

“We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own.”

Cesar Chavez

We work with parents, community-based organizations, and other community stakeholders interested in transforming our neighborhoods and communities through participatory decision making “power blocks” so that our children and youth have advocates who help them secure and sustain rich opportunities to learn and thrive in our world.
“To assist a child we must provide [her] with an environment which will enable [her] to develop freely.”

Maria Montessori

We offer programs that emphasize the power of parenting and the centrality of equity in human development with the belief that every child, particularly in their early years, deserves equal access to a nurturing education.
We toil courageously in cultural and political contexts that frustrate and obstruct the educational achievement of vulnerable student populations to maximize the resources of communities, enhancing learning opportunities for schools and other entities that support all youth.

“It is time to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength.”

Maya Angelou
“Books saved my sanity, knowledge opened the locked places in me and taught me first how to survive and then how to soar.”

Gloria Anzaldúa

We develop and deliver services that support teachers and other practitioners committed to critical literacy and the advancement of multilingual models.
Parent Engagement & Support

“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child’s success is the positive involvement of parents”

Jane D. Hull

We address the increasing mandate of state and federal agencies through helping school districts structure effective programs that address home-school communications, develop symbiotic relationships, and develop parent leaders.
“It’s essential to keep moving, learning and evolving for as long as you’re here and this world keeps spinning.”

Rasheed Ogunlaru

Our engaged scholarship model promotes inquiry designed to interrogate systems of power while expanding knowledge of issues that impact equity across all domains of public educations.
School Climate

“The classroom should be an entrance into the world, not an escape from it.”

John Ciardi

We instigate for positive school climates that promote diverse, inclusive, equitable, and restorative environments capable of sustaining culturally and linguistically diverse students and staff.
Student Support & Services

“The question is not whether we can afford to invest in every child; it is whether we can afford not to.”
Marian Wright Edelman

We directly support students’ college, career, and civic development through services such as tutoring in core academic subjects, workforce development, individual and small-group counseling, and mentoring.
Spotlight on Success
NYU Metro Center celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2018. And after 40 years of service, the Center welcomed our anniversary celebration as an opportunity to reflect on the tremendous work and impact we have had on education across the U.S. and beyond.

In our 40 year history, NYU Metro Center has had three exemplary executive directors, who have raised the Center into a nationally recognized leader in educational equity. The programs run out of NYU Metro Center have achieved impressive reach and profound success. Born after Brown, NYU Metro Center persists today, continuing a legacy of justice work that ensures education is “made available to all on equal terms” and “with all deliberate speed.”

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“The Nest program is what showed me the path to understanding myself, the world, and the people around me; without it, I would not be half the person I am today”
- Colin Ozeki, former ASD Nest Student, NYU Stern, Class of ’21

The ASD Nest Support Project at NYU Metro Center develops the capacity of educational systems, districts, and schools to support students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). By focusing on strengths, developing independence and advocacy, and committing to inclusion, we help our partners build truly inclusive learning environments.

ASD Nest is a school inclusion model for students with ASD, in which students with ASD are educated in their neighborhood school alongside their general education peers. Educators teach the general education curriculum using specialized supports drawn from evidence-based and promising practices, and students develop competence in their social and behavioral functioning, in order to ultimately realize their full, unique potential as independent and happy adults.

The ASD Nest Support Project offers professional development packages tailored to a school’s needs to help administrators, educators, related service providers, paraprofessionals, and the entire school community better understand, nurture, and educate their students with ASD. Our goal is to help schools build inclusive learning communities where difference is accepted and neurodiverse learners can thrive.

43 ASD Nest schools across all 5 boroughs of New York City
300 co-taught inclusive classrooms in Nest public schools
1400 students with ASD in kindergarten through 12th grade
4500 general education peers educated alongside their Nest classmates
The Center for Community Organizing and Engagement provides support to urban communities in their struggles for school improvement. Our work is inspired by the belief that sustainable and equitable school reforms emerge when the voices of students, parents, and teachers are combined with the best ideas and research to meet the challenges of struggling schools. The most preeminent in COE is our Education Justice Research and Organizing Collaborative (EJ-ROC), which brings together researchers, data and policy analysts, and community organizers to provide critical research, data, policy and strategic support for the education justice movement. EJ-ROC aims to democratize education data, research and policy, maximize the synergy between research and community organizing, magnify the voices of grassroots communities of color, and advance the capacity of organizing efforts to design solutions, make demands, and sustain policy wins.

In AY 2017-18, EJ-ROC accomplished the following:

+ Conducted and released a survey of NYC public school teachers about their comfort and capacity to talk about race in the classroom
+ Provided strategic organizing support to parent and youth organizing groups in New York City, Newark, and across the country, contributing to strengthening grassroots campaigns and major policy victories
+ Launched the NYC Culturally Responsive Education Working Group to support the expansion of CRE and institutionalize policies that will last beyond this administration
+ Produced a report on California school funding for the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment
+ Conducted an analysis of Title 1 and IDEA underfunding for the Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools report Confronting the Education Debt
+ Produced analysis of diversity in common NYC curriculum for the NYC Coalition for Educational Justice
+ Conducted course comparisons of schools in low-income communities of color and neighboring affluent white communities, for the Journey 4 Justice Alliance report Failing Brown v. Board
The Center for Policy, Research, and Evaluation (PRE) at NYU Metro Center conducts applied research and evaluation studies focused on promoting positive educational outcomes for youth, and understanding the influence of both schools and communities on those outcomes. Our goal is to use research to inform educational policies and practices at federal, state, local, and programmatic levels.

The mission of PRE grows out of the larger mission of NYU Metro Center, in that PRE exists to make research and evaluation for education that is action-oriented, liberating, accessible, and results in more equitable systems, policies, and practices. Recognizing that research is often used as a tool of domination, our PRE team believes in the reclamation of research tools to illuminate marginalized truths, stories, and experiences.

We pursue our mission:

+ in solidarity with youth, parents, educators, and communities that have been historically marginalized by oppression;
+ collaboratively with researchers and practitioners from universities and community-based organizations;
+ using a critical lens in our work and in our own personal development;
+ with culturally responsive quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods;
+ through rigorous and thoughtful work that affirms humanity.

NYU Metro Center’s PRE team includes 7 staff and graduate students from NYU Metro Center and 5 newly acquired members from Annenberg Institute for School Reform. We worked on 15 active grants and contracts, with work that spans at least a dozen states. In Spring 2018, we convened an AERA Research Conference (#aerablm17), bringing together 7 districts focused on Black and Latino Male Opportunity and Outcomes.
CSS has developed national expertise in supporting educators, and individuals who have contact and influence in education. CSS supports its partners in considering the impact of race, power, and privilege on the lives of students and their learning trajectories. By offering professional development, technical assistance, consultation, and coaching that delves into the deep historical entanglements of racial inequity, CSS centers the dialogue in developing a shared understanding of the systems that impact our cross-racial, cross-ethnic, and cross-cultural understandings. Engagements are designed to offer multiple points of entry for participants of all backgrounds.

During the 2017-2018 school year, the largest CSS endeavor was the Critically Conscious Educators Rising Series (CCER), which included 360 participants and culminated in the annual Decolonizing Education Conference on May 19, 2018. CCER and the Decolonizing Education Conference has helped NYU Metro Center gather like-minded educators who are committed to equity and justice in education for culturally and linguistically diverse students in order to build a community of critically conscious educators who will turnkey information within their individual spheres of influence.

28 Districts
346 Schools
2,789 Teachers
71,053 Students served in these schools/districts
390 Students CSS worked with directly
NYU Metro Center’s Saturday and Summer College Prep Academies (CEI-1199) are supplemental college-preparatory programs that enable roughly 300 high school students from high-needs communities to attend our central NYU campus for intensive Saturday and summer sessions, focused on academic enrichment, tutoring, mentoring, college readiness, career planning, and professional internship experience.

100% of seniors who attended the academy successfully graduated high school & matriculated to college

80% are poised to become 1st generation college graduates

87% are Black & Latinx

90% are deemed eligible for financial aid
The program has served over 200 students to date; of the seniors who participated in EXCEL@NYU in the 2017-2018 program year, 100% graduated from high school, and 94% currently attend a postsecondary institution.

EXCEL (Educational eXcellence Creating Empowered Leaders) in Writing, Thinking, and Inquiry (EXCEL@NYU) program, in partnership with Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom high school and Children’s Aid Society, was developed over the last 10 years to address the wide and specific needs of first-generation college-bound students of color in the South Bronx and provide access to the wealth of resources available at New York University. Excel Scholars develop skills in writing, reading, public speaking and community building through intensive critical literacy and college preparation curriculum and multimodal enrichment opportunities; such as academic conferences, cultural trips, faculty discussion sessions and college mentoring. By challenging students to become dynamic leaders in their academic community and beyond, The EXCEL Academy aids the transition from high school to college holistically.
The NYU Liberty Partnerships Program (NYU LPP) is one of 47 statewide LPPs funded by the New York State Education Department. NYU LPP, currently in the second year of a 5-year contract (2017-2022), has been contracted to serve 360 vulnerable youth who attend one of 9 partner schools in New York City. In our growing capacity, we position NYU staff, graduate and undergraduate students, and program partners to provide direct services to the students in the areas of academic immersion, academic support services, counseling, college readiness, cultural enrichment, employment preparation, community service projects, leadership development, civic duty activities, mentoring, health and wellness, and tutoring.

In 2017-18, NYU LPP provided services for 554 students.
Metro Learning Communities (MLC) is a specialized professional development project and is widely known for seminars in facilitative leadership, but it also offers professional learning opportunities in other formats. The project’s core mission is to promote educational improvement for all students through deep and collaborative teacher learning.
The Mindful Education Lab oversees two parallel but connected programs - research and teacher training. Our Mindful Research Lab looks at the psychological and neurological effects of mindfulness on student learning, teacher effectiveness, and school and classroom climate. This work, in turn, informs our Mindful Teacher Program (MTP), which offers professional development to schools by training educators (teachers, principals, school staff) in techniques to improve their lives both in and out of school. We also train high school students in mindfulness as part of the College Prep Academy, which prepares urban youth for success in college.

Educational interventions developed by Aronson and colleagues have been successful in boosting student achievement, well being, tests scores, and learning, and have been inducted into the Department of Education’s exclusive “What Works Clearinghouse,” a collection of school interventions of carefully vetted practices deemed worthy of using in America’s schools. Dr. Hill is among the nation’s most well respected and influential statisticians and methodologists.

+ Collaborates closely with other leading neuroscience laboratories, including the META Lab at University of California, Santa Barbara, the Yale Center for Stress, and the Neuroscience and Education Lab at New York University, in an effort to combine cutting edge science with service to schools and companies across the country.

+ Current projects include the School to Prosperity Pipeline, an initiative that supports children academically from age four through college, with the aim to promote academic, social, and psychological wellness. We are also working on developing the Drug-free ADHD Relief Project, focused on cognitive training that replaces or reduces the need to medicate children with attention difficulties.

+ Served over 400 New York city youth with meditation and mindfulness training
The Project for the Advancement of our Common Humanity (PACH) is a think tank designed to engage researchers, policymakers, practitioners, activists, educators, artists, and journalists in a series of conversations to determine what lies at the root of our crisis of human connection.

PACH is currently conducting the Listening Project which trains 7th-grade students and their teachers in middle schools across NYC in the practice of transformative interviewing. The goal is to address the crisis of connection in middle schools evident in the high rates of suspensions, detentions, stereotyping and bullying found in American middle schools. By enhancing listening skills, curiosity, and connection in middle school classrooms, the Listening Project works to address this crisis of connection.

As part of an 8-week English unit, students and teachers are trained in interviewing skills and interview peers, teachers, family members, and/or community members. Following their interviews, they produce a biographical essay focused on someone whom they have interviewed. These interviews aim to foster curiosity, connection and promote a sense of common humanity.

To date, PACH has conducted the listening project in 12 classrooms (7 teachers and over 240 students) across four middle schools in NYC.
The New York State-Wide Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBE-RN) at NYU Metro Center provides support for the education of Multilingual Language Learners (MLLs) and students of languages other than English through technical assistance, professional development, resource material development, and translated subject area glossaries.

RBE-RN has impacted 240,000 ELLs administrators, teachers, and parents.

Our translated subject area glossaries, available in many languages including NYSED 10 predominant MLL languages, which are available online, were accessed 145,000 times.

Our MLL Parent Hotline, both online and telephonic, responded to over 3,500 inquiries from across New York State.
Resilience, Opportunity, Safety, Education, Strength (ROSES) is a free, community-based, trauma-informed, girls only program that is being implemented and evaluated as part of a New York University study. The goal of the ROSES study is to learn more about the needs of girls between the ages of 11 and 17 who are at-risk for involvement or are involved in the juvenile justice system and to understand how the system can better work for them.

Referred youth who choose to participate in the study have a 50% chance of being randomized into the free ROSES advocacy program.

All girls (whether they get randomly assigned to the ROSES program or not) participate in the research project.

Youth who are randomly assigned to receive the ROSES program are paired with an advocate who is a trained, closely supervised, paraprofessional, young woman close to youth’s age.

The advocates travel all across the 5 boroughs and will come to wherever the youth is in her community for 10-12 weeks, 2 times a week.
Technical Assistance Center on Disproportionality (TAC-D) works to build the capacity of regions and districts in understanding root causes of educational disparities in order to systemically address the disproportionate assignment of various groups in special education.

In 2017, NYU Metro Center partnered with the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) Field Support Centers (FSC) to form the Youth Technical Assistance Center On Addressing Disproportionality (YTAC-D). This NYU Metro Center program is the first of its kind. The aim of YTAC-D is to inform practitioners of how youth experience disproportionality as the program works towards creating a more equitable schooling experience for all students.

TAC-D provided a grand total of 987 training hours during the 2017-18 school year; 804 to districts and 183 to regions.

Two out of 12 current TAC-D districts were removed from the 2017-18 citation list based on data from 2016-17, indicating that their levels of disproportionality fell below state thresholds.
We provide a rich and textured forum for organic intellectual production focused on public scholarship and the ongoing development of emerging intellectuals. UERC is grounded in the ethic of participatory/community intellectual work, curating research and public scholarship, engaging hot topics, and preparing members to be agents of change in education and beyond. UERC allows students, educators, and affiliates to connect and contribute meaningfully to the mission and vision of NYU Metro Center through the following initiatives:

+ The Integration Project (TIP). TIP continues NYU Metro Center’s 40-year commitment to producing research and recommendations needed to advance the promises of Brown in U.S. public education. Integration is pivotal to the mission of NYU Metro Center, so is the continuing work of dismantling systems of segregation and promoting conditions that inspire diversity.

+ Voices in Urban Education (VUE). VUE is NYU Metro Center’s flagship journal, featuring public scholarship on hot topics related to equity in education. It is published twice a year by a dynamic publishing team that includes advanced graduate students, school and district leaders, teachers, and educational advocates. A board of close to 50 leading scholars from across the U.S. oversees each issue of VUE.

+ Educational Disparities in Charter Schools Study. We have recently engaged in a partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to study disparities among students of color with disabilities in charter schools across five states. Our report to the Gates Foundation will be released in the fall of 2019.

+ Graduate Student Colloquium Series. The GSCS is a public presentation series hosted by NYU Metro Center graduate students. The colloquium series advances dialogue and public engagement around key and emerging topics related to equity in education.

+ The Reading and Writing Forum for Public Scholarship. The Reading and Writing Forum presents a space for the intellectual development of public scholars. The Forum is open to all members of the NYU Metro Center extended community.
Revenue Fiscal Year
2017-2018

Federal: $1,300,000.00

NYS: $4,197,960.00

Foundations: $2,512,171.00

Others: $1,325,120.00

Fee for Services: $2,895,650.00

Gifts: $108,000.00
A special thank you to our partners who, year after year, support our work.
1199 SEIU/Employer Child Care Corp
Albany Public Schools
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Arlington New York Central School District
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Boston College
Boston Public Schools
Buffalo Public Schools
Caplan Foundation of Early Childhood
Center for Popular Democracy
Chicago Public Schools
City of Aarhus Denmark
College Spring
CUNY
Detroit 90/90
Detroit Public Schools Community District
Donors’ Education Collaborative
Dutchess County New York BOCES
Educational Development Center
Einhorn Family Charitable Trust
Emma Bowden Foundation
Florida Atlantic University High School
Ford Foundation
Gates Foundation
Hagedorn Foundation
Henry Ford Academy
Jobs for the Future
Meringoff Foundation
Mind and Life Institute
National Education Association
National Public Education Support Fund
National Science Foundation
Nellie Mae Education Foundation
New York City Council
New York City Department of Education
New York City Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice
New York Community Trust
New York State Association for Bilingual Education
New York State Department of Education
New York State Unified Court System
New York University Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
Ossining Union Free Public School District
Pinkerton Foundation
Putnam Westchester New York BOCES
Rochester Public Schools
Schenectady Public Schools
Schott Foundation
Spencer Foundation
State of Connecticut
Syracuse Public Schools
Teagle Foundation
United States Department of Education
United States Department of Education / Institute of Education Sciences
United States Department of Justice / National Institute of Justice
University of Michigan
Victoria Foundation
Westbury Union Free Public School District
West Palm Beach Public School District
William Penn Foundation
William T. Grant Foundation
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